

Coconino National Forest Plan Revision

Wetland Cienega

General Description

- Wetland Cienega vegetation community is associated with perennial springs or shallow concave depressions in clay soils that are strongly influenced by climatic conditions, especially precipitation.
- Wetland types differ from each other by water permanency, wetland vegetation, and size. These types are semi-permanent, seasonal, temporary or ephemeral wetlands, and reservoirs.
- Reservoirs hold water the longest, are man-made, and are often the deepest. Semi-permanent wetlands hold water approximately 9-12 months and support bulrushes or cat tails interspersed with open pools of water. Seasonal wetlands hold water about 5-9 months and are dominated by sedges, spikerush, and other emergent vegetation. Temporary wetlands hold water about 2-5 months and are characterized by *[will list representative plant species]*.
- The majority of wetlands are associated with earthen stock tanks and some have manmade islands, built for water bird nesting. Natural wetlands are adapted to wet and dry cycles. Most natural wetlands dry completely during extended drought periods.
- On Coconino National Forest, wetlands primarily occur at elevations ranging from *[elevation to be determined]* feet and cover about *[acreage to be determined]* acres. Most of them are on Anderson Mesa, on the east central side of the forest. They range in size from Mormon Lake at *[maximum acreage to be determined]* acres to less than 10 acres in size.

Desired conditions and other plan components – *[currently under development]*

Potential items:

- Soil condition and soil productivity – including compaction and water infiltration consistent with the capacity of the existing soil types.
- Aquatic and riparian vegetation that is resilient to changing climatic conditions.
- Recognition that soil compaction and trampling of vegetation will occur as a result of wildlife use, permitted livestock use, and recreation. Grazing use will be higher closer to water. The scale and magnitude of these uses should not be such that permanent damage to perennial plants occurs.
- Water quality